

## What is Claimed is:

- [c1] An apparatus for inspecting a display panel, comprising:
- a support structure on which a display panel to be inspected is disposed;
  - a light source; and
  - a dimmer plate which modulates a light transmission characteristic in accordance with an intensity of light incident onto said dimmer plate, said dimmer plate being disposed between said support structure and said light source,
- wherein light emitted from said light source is transmitted through said dimmer plate, then incident onto the display panel disposed on said support structure.
- [c2] The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said dimmer plate modulates the light transmission characteristic in accordance with an intensity of an ultraviolet ray incident onto said dimmer plate and has a reversible photochromic
- [c3] The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source comprises a fluorescent light emitting tube made of a bent glass tube.
- [c4] The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a light diffusion plate is disposed between said dimmer plate and the display panel to be inspected.
- [c5] A method for inspecting a display panel, said method comprising the steps of:
- disposing a display panel to be inspected onto a support structure;
  - emitting light from a light source;
  - receiving the light emitted from said light source, and controlling a quantity of transmitted light in accordance with an intensity of the incident light; and
  - making said transmitted light incident onto said display panel to be inspected, said transmitted light having the controlled quantity.
- [c6] The method according to claim 5, wherein said transmitted light having the controlled quantity is diffused, and the diffused light is made incident onto the display panel to be inspected.
- [c7] The method according to claim 5, wherein said step of controlling a quantity of



transmitted light controls the quantity in accordance with an intensity of an incident ultraviolet ray by utilizing a reversible photochromic property.

[c8] The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of: comparing a transmission intensity of light detected after being transmitted through the display panel and a predetermined transmission intensity of light in a standard sample with each other.

09683701